

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 SWF-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /029 W
----- 076373

O R 161236Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8628

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, TO

SUBJ: FY-76 TOGO FERTILIZER UTILIZATION PROJECT

REF: A) LOME 2862 (NOTAL); B) STATE 270797 (NOTAL);

C) LOME 2597 (NOTAL)

1. AT OUTSET I WANT TO SUGGEST THAT WE KEEP IN PERSPECTIVE GOT RHETORIC, WHICH NEITHER IN MEDIA NOR IN PUBLIC POLITICAL GATHERINGS HAS BEEN "HOSTILE" TO US SPECIFICALLY. GOT HAS TWO MAJOR GOALS, FOR WHICH IT SEEKS TO MOBILIZE POPULAR SUPPORT: A) ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND B) NATIONAL UNITY.

2. TOGO SEES FIRST OF THESE GOALS AS BASED UPON CONTROL OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. THUS, EARLY THIS YEAR GOT NATIONALIZED FRANCO-AMERICAN PHOSPHATE MINING COMPANY, FOR WHICH IT ALREADY HAS MADE PROMPT AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMPENSATION. ACHIEVEMENT OF SECOND GOAL DEPENDS UPON PEOPLE'S SENSE OF IDENTIFICATION AND PRIDE OF TOGOLESE CITIZENS. GOT HAS BORROWED NEGATIVE RHETORIC OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND ANTI-COLONIALISM FROM MILITANT THIRD-WORLD STATES TO STIR POPULAR SENTIMENT FOR NATIONAL UNITY. IT IS TRUE THAT PROMISES OF AID FROM SOME OF THOSE STATED, I.E. NORTH KOREAN AND CHINA, HAVE LED GOT ALSO TO TAKE POSITIONS ON SOME INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES (KOREA, CAMBODIA) INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS.

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3. IN CONTEXT OF BROADER US INTERESTS, TOGO OFFERS POSITIVE PROSPECTS FOR PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT. AGRICULTURE SECTOR - PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND CREDIT - IS PARTICULAR AREA IN WHICH USG NOW HAS MEANS AND POLICY SUPPORT FOR US-GOT BILATERAL PROJECTS COMPLEMENTING REGIONAL PROJECTS THROUGH ENTENTE FUND. EVERYTHING HERE FAVORS OUR EFFORT: PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S EMPHASIS ON, AND TOGO'S CAPACITY FOR, INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION; CURRENT GOT INTEREST IN FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AND SUBSIDY TO FARMERS; AND TOGO'S PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION.

4. THERE IS, MOREOVER, LARGE RESERVOIR OF FRIENDSHIP FOR US, BOTH AMONG GOT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. GOT HAS SPECIAL APPRECIATION OF PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SELF-HELP PROJECTS FOR WHICH DOLS 109,000 WAS DISPERSED FY 1974 (WE EASILY COULD ABSORB MORE SELF-HELP FUNDS). GOT'S GRATITUDE FOR PC MANIFESTED MID-OCTOBER IN MINISTER EDUCATION MALOU'S SUPERB DINNER DANCE GIVEN FOR PCV'S AND THEIR TOGOLESE COUNTERPARTS. DURING TRIP UPCOUNTRY LAST WEEK, I ENCOUNTERED EQUAL MIXTURE OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR PAST WORKS AND REQUESTS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICERS ("CHEFS DE CORCONSCRIPTION"), ALL OF WHOM ARE APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT. MOST RECENTLY, IBRD OFFICIAL HERE LAST FRIDAY TO DISCUSS CIMA CLINKER PLANT WITH GOT, TOLD US MINES MINISTER MIVEDOR HAD SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF USAID PARTICIPATION IN CIMA.

5. AS REGARDS FRENCH REACTION, CTMB NATIONALIZATION SEEMS NOT TO HAVE DAMPENED GOF'S INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN TOGOLESE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. ACCORDING TO "TOGO-PRESSE," FRENCH EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTION OF PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FACTORY HERE DURING EYADEMA'S RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, AND EYADEMA LATER ANNOUNCED FRENCH WOULD PARTICIPATE (REFTEL C). FRENCH HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH GROUP OF EXPERTS WHICH IS NOW IN TOGO REPORTEDLY PERFORMING PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FERTILIZER PLANT. THUS, WE CAN ANTICIPATE FRENCH REACTION AGAINST US COMPETITION IN PROJECT GOF MAY WANT FOR ITSELF. GOF NO DOUBT WOULD BE ADVERSE TO OUR PARTICIPATION, EITHER THROUGH AID ASSISTANCE OR PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE. GIVEN ACTIVE FRENCH INTEREST, US SHOULD MOVE CAUTIOUSLY TO AVOID CREATING SITUATION IN WHICH GOT MIGHT PLAY OFF ONE POTENTIAL DONOR AGAINST ANOTHER.

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6. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS HISTORY OF US INTEREST. DEPT WILL RECALL CHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF NEW YORK'S 1973 APPLICATION TO EX-IM BANK FOR FINANCING DOLS 24 MILLION OF US EQUIPMENT FOR FERTILIZER FACTORY PROPOSED BY SOCIETE TOGOLAISE DES ENGRAIS (STEN), JOINT BELGIAN-TOGOLESE COMPANY. ON BALANCE, I WOULD SUPPORT USG'S EXPLORING FERTILIZER PLANT AND UTILIZATION PROJECT WITH GOT, PROVIDED IT IS DONE WITH UTMOST

CIRCUMSPECTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL RESOURCES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NATIONALIZATION, FERTILIZERS, NATIONAL UNIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOME02898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740364-0805
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741232/aaaabbol.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LOME 2862, 74 (NOTA STATE 270797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY-76 TOGO FERTILIZER UTILIZATION PROJECT
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, TO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005